

Dear Director,

I am a Ugandan male who had been working in the department of surgery in a Tanzanian hospital.

During my time in Tanzania (4years) we were faced with cases that needed reconstruction but we barely were able to give the patient what we thought they deserved. Mostly, we had to wait for the visiting interplast surgeons who would come once in 6months.

By the time they got to the hospital, the contractures of the patients would have progressed to unimaginable limb contortion postures, and the defects that would need covering would have cost the patient a lot of time in hospital (meaning they missed the planting season)money (meaning they could not afford expensive surgeries or investigations) and emotional stress and caused surgeons a lot of frustrations and sometimes a sense of inadequacy.

I heard about CoRSU and the fellowship of plastic surgery from a friend of mine who had met good Dr. Hodges at a conference. I emailed Dr. Hodges about the need to get some exposure to the plastic surgery, a sort of eye opener to the potential of learning the Art. I had applied for the MMed Plast from Mbarara university and had been offered the training post. The training was to be under Dr. Hodges.

After having been offered the fellowship, I could not afford, a flat and transport to and from the hospital plus feeding costs. And since I was already in Uganda, I discussed with Dr. Hodges who told me about *interface Uganda* and how they would be willing to help for the duration of the fellowship.

Through funding from interface, I was able to live comfortably and concentrated on the fellowship, which included, working on patients on the wards, doing the ward rounds with the consultants, assisting in the operating theatres and following up the patients in the clinic.

This made me realize there was a lot that could have been done for the patients in the hospital I was working in before, and also most of the patients stayed for a time period of about 3days with the longest staying patients spending about 2weeks , this fascinated me and inspired me, because I kept on remembering all the patients in Tanzania who had to wait for 6months for the interplast surgeons who spent only two weeks operating.

The fellowship also made me have a head start on the plastic surgery masters program , so I didn't have to spend the first few months being fascinated but instead learn the lovely art of reconstruction and restoration of function .

I would lastly like to thank *Interface Uganda* for having help me during that time and making it easy for me to concentrate on what I considered important , minus their help I doubt I would have been as enthusiastic as I am now.

I am hoping to become a plastic surgeon in three years and also help train more surgeons and treat more patients.

Yours faithfully,

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